



State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
2008 LA PANZA TULE ELK HUNT
www.dfg.ca.gov



Congratulations on receiving a tag for the La Panza Tule Elk Hunt! This letter contains information regarding your hunt. Visit the above website address for specific zone regulations (hunt zone map, description, and harvest success information can also be viewed at this address).

The hunts take place in San Benito, Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties. Most of the elk in the hunt zone, including all of the elk herds in Monterey and San Benito Counties, occur on private lands. We will provide you with a list of lands which may allow access, usually for a fee, prior to your hunt.

There are also a number of good elk hunting opportunities on public lands in San Luis Obispo County near the Carrizo Plain. If you plan to hunt this area, we recommend that you obtain the road/land ownership map for the Carrizo Plain National Monument prior to your hunt. The map can be purchased from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management office in Bakersfield. The BLM phone number is (661) 391-6000. In addition, the Los Padres National Forest publishes a recreation map for the National Forest which is a good general guide for much of the hunt area. Please call (805) 925-9538 for information on obtaining a map.

For those of you who have access to a computer and a high speed internet connection, DFG has an interactive mapping program which allows you to zoom in to the 7.5 minute topographical maps. The program website is http://imaps.dfg.ca.gov/viewers/dfg_properties/app.asp. If you do not have access to a computer, the U.S. Geological Service publishes several maps that cover the public hunt area. The most useful maps for hunting on public lands will be the Branch Mountain, Los Machos Hills, Caldwell Mesa, Miranda Pine Mountain, Chimney Canyon, Huasna Peak, California Valley, La Panza, Pozo Summit, Caliente Mountain, Chimineas Ranch and the Painted Rock Quads. Not all of the land covered on these maps will be open to hunting, and they aren't inexpensive, so we suggest that you get the Forest Service and/or BLM maps first, and then decide which of the topographical sheets you need. These are generally available at outdoor shops or can be ordered on line at the U.S. Geological Service website at http://topomaps.usgs.gov/ordering_maps.html.

The weather during the hunts can be changeable. Period 1 may be hot, but Period 2 should start to cool off. If it rains, roads will be impassable for a period of time, usually only a few days. Fire danger may be extreme, so call ahead to the Forest Service at the number above for the latest on campground information. There are two BLM camping areas within the Carrizo Plain National Monument at the KCL Ranch and at the Selby Ranch; several small camps are also available within the Los Padres National Forest. All camps are primitive, with no potable water available, so bring your own.

A list of licensed guides that work in San Luis Obispo County is available from the Department of Fish and Game at (916) 928-5805. Very few of these guides will be able to

assist you, but it may be worth while to get the information. Mention of individuals does not signify Department endorsement. The names are given for information only.

The Department is collecting teeth from animals taken by hunters for age analysis. Successful hunters should follow directions on the tooth envelope (included with this flyer) to remove the two front teeth and submit them to the Department. Please do not wrap teeth in plastic or foil. The Department will post the age analysis results at the website listed above for hunters that submit teeth from their hunt. The age of your animal can be found by using your hunting license number. Please note that these results may not be available until December of the following year.

Please note that some of the elk within the hunt area have been fitted with radio collars. The data we are gathering is critical to the management of this herd. In the event that you harvest a collared animal, please contact the local DFG personnel at (805) 528-8670 or Mr. Joe Hobbs (916) 445-9992 immediately so that we can make arrangements to obtain the collar. In order to prevent the loss of data it is important that we are contacted as soon as possible.

Be aware that non-lead ammunition restrictions will be in place by July 1, 2008. Refer to Title 14 Section 353 and 354 for legal methods of take. Also see the attached information regarding the new regulations.

All tag holders are required to attend hunter orientation. You will be receiving more information on your hunt, as well as the dates and times for the orientation, by September. For more information, please contact the DFG personnel assigned to the San Luis Obispo area by telephone at (805) 528-8670. You may also contact the Department's regional office in Fresno at (559) 243-4005. Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable hunt.

New Regulations Will Prohibit Use of Lead Projectiles for Big Game and Nongame Hunting in the Range of the California Condor

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/condor/>

After nearly a full year of public testimony, discussion, and environmental analyses, the Fish and Game Commission in December 2007 adopted regulations (Section 353, Title 14, CCR) that will prohibit the use of projectiles (bullets) containing lead for hunting deer, bear, wild pig, elk, and pronghorn antelope in areas designated as California condor range. Additionally, the regulations (Section 475, Title 14, CCR) will also prohibit use of lead in the same areas when hunting coyote, ground squirrels, and other nongame wildlife.

When:

The effective date for the new regulations will be July 1, 2008. It will be illegal to hunt the above species with lead projectiles beginning July 1.

What are the lead projectiles that are prohibited?

The Commission has defined projectiles so that the prohibited bullets and other projectiles can be understood. A "projectile" is defined as *any bullet, ball, sabot, slug, buckshot or other device which is expelled from a firearm through a barrel by force*. Additionally, for hunting nongame, projectiles include "shot" and "pellets"; lead in these projectiles is prohibited as well.

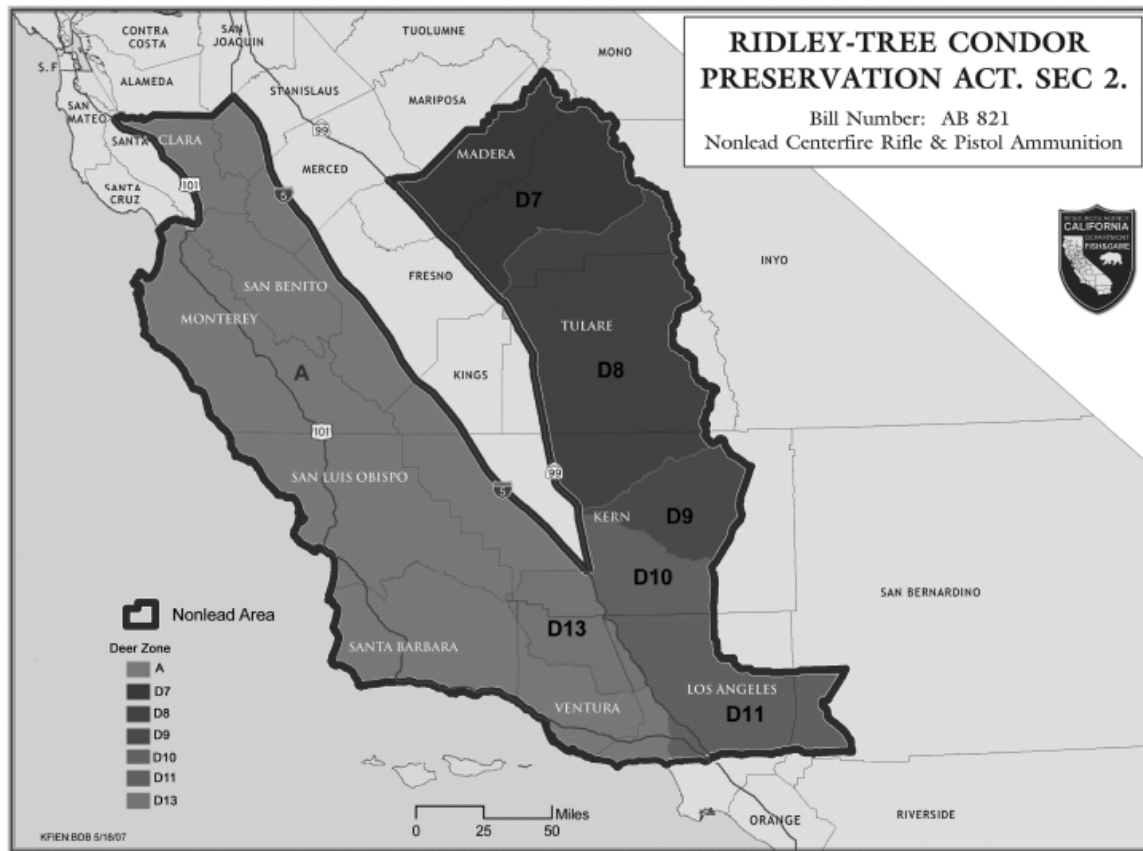
It will be illegal to use any projectile that contains more than 1 percent lead for hunting big game or nongame within the affected area. This includes centerfire as well as blackpowder/ muzzle-loader, and rimfire projectiles.

Lead Content in Projectiles

The Commission and Department are aware that trace levels of lead likely exist in any projectile as a result of the manufacturing process. Additionally, interpretation of the statute indicates the intent is to preclude risk to the condor from lead fragmentation. Therefore, the Commission has established a maximum amount of lead content in projectiles to be 1.0 percent by weight. In reality, it is understood that "non-lead" identified projectiles have far less than 1 percent lead content. The Commission and Department will be working on a certification process, to be completed before summer 2008, to help hunters identify projectiles that will be legal.

Where

The geographic area where lead is prohibited is exactly the same area described in the recently enacted AB 821- Ridley-Tree Condor Preservation Act (Nava) and entered into the Fish and Game Code as section 3004.5. To assist hunters in understanding and visualizing affected areas, the lead prohibition area is also known as deer hunt zones D7, D8, D9, D10, D11, D13, and most (but not all) of the South A zone. (The Department will identify specific hunts affected in a future update.)



What are the regulations and options for hunting with .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms?

Rimfire firearms are not legal in California for hunting big game or for depredation killing of big game animals (these are primarily deer and wild pig in condor range).

Rimfire firearms are legal for nongame animals (coyotes and ground squirrels primarily) and for sport hunting of small game mammals [hares (jackrabbits), cottontail, and tree squirrel]. However, for nongame animals the Commission has prohibited use of lead projectiles in .22 rimfire or smaller firearms as part of this regulation change in condor range.

The Commission has not addressed the issue of hunting small game mammals because that section of the regulations was not “opened” for potential change. Therefore, hunters can legally hunt jackrabbit, cottontail, and tree squirrel using lead projectiles, but not ground squirrels in the same area. Part of the reasoning for this is that unlike nongame animals that are hunted and usually left in the field, game species must be retrieved and not wasted.

The Department and Commission are of the understanding that non-lead projectiles for rimfire are not readily available or manufactured at this time and that the only non-lead rimfire is in .22 caliber magnum, and not for the very popular .22 short, long, or long rifle.

Where can I find a list of known legal projectiles for hunting?

The Department and Commission will be initiating a process such that the Commission can certify projectiles as meeting the “non-lead” threshold for purposes of these

regulations. This public review process will occur between February and June 2008 and should result in a listing of authorized projectiles acceptable for hunting within the affected area. Currently, the Department recommends visiting this webpage: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/condor/docs/nonlead-ammo-ca.pdf> although the subject projectiles have not been certified for the July 1 requirement (that is, all would be considered legal until July 1, 2008 and possibly thereafter).

If I purchase ammunition listed at that website, what assurance do I have that it will be legal after July 2008?

There are no assurances until the certification process is completed in Spring 2008. We recommend hunters be mindful of this timeframe.

What are the regulations for possessing lead projectiles within the affected area?

The Commission prohibited the possession of lead projectiles and a firearm capable of firing such projectiles, while big game or nongame hunting within the specified range. Otherwise, lead projectiles may be possessed.

The Department's Law Enforcement Division will be interpreting and enforcing these regulations. If you have a scenario where you are not sure of legality, it is recommended that you contact a local DFG warden to seek guidance.

What about target shooting, "plinking", or firearms for personal protection?

The Commission does not regulate these activities. Use of lead projectiles is legal unless another government entity has determined otherwise for lands they administer. The regulations prohibiting lead only relate to possession while engaged in specified hunting activities.

Are pellet rifles included in the non-lead ammunition ban?

Pellet rifles are not considered a firearm. Consequently, neither pellet rifles nor their projectiles would be included in the ban.